



SARA SKYWAVES



April 2024



President's Message



Hello April and welcome to Spring!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I would like take this opportunity to thank all who attended last month's general meeting. We voted on some changes to the By-Laws and some of those changes are already in effect.

Let's start by welcoming our new members Larry Self, KJ5FHL and

Bob Welch, KJ5FIW. They both tested with Laurel and passed the Technician test.

With the coming of Spring and fair weather let's look forward to some outdoor activities. We have a Parks on the Air activation planned for Saturday, April 6th at Spring Creek Forest Preserve, 1770 Holford Rd, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We can stay later if we so desire. Also remember McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC) has invited SARA members to join them in a Parks on the Air/Field Day warmup activation at Bonham State Park, 1363 State Park 24, Bonham, TX. It is scheduled on Saturday, April 20th from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Lunch is included.

Total Solar Eclipse to occur throughout sections of Texas on April 8th. This is a rare opportunity for anybody in our area to gain some exposure to this rare event. Some interesting information can be found in YouTube video at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/5eztd3dj>

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on the 11th. Come to share your experiences of the eclipse as well as welcoming Dave Piekarski, K5EEN who will be presenting at this month's meeting, a QSL

JOIN US ON THE AIR

ALL SARA operations and all Sachse ARES/RACES operations are being conducted on the W5SRA repeater

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association uses the W5SRA repeater in Sachse, TX:

Frequency: 440.350 MHz

Shift: +5MHz

PL tone: 110.9 (Tx & Rx)

SARA Weekly Information Net
Monday, 7:00 PM on the W5SRA Repeater

The W5SRA repeater is accessible via EchoLink and AllStarLink.

Sachse Radio Club **AllStarLink Instructions:** ([Click Here](#))

Please use node 528831 to connect using AllStarLink

history of Raymond Stone, W5RBO. I have seen this presentation a couple of times and it is very interesting.

A Call for Volunteers

I received the following communication from Chadwick, KD5UMO concerning the MS Ride for North Texas May 4th and 5th:

Good afternoon.

I am one of the committee members for the MS Ride for North Texas and we are looking for and inviting communicators for this year's event. We have had a 100% change in the route that has greatly affected our volunteer base. Thank you to those that are reading this that have been with us for 10-15 or more years.

Historically, our route was Frisco-Denton-FTW, or Frisco-Sanger-FTW, etc. This year we are starting in Mansfield with an overnight in Glen Rose, coming back to FTW.

If you have the ability to come and support the event for one or both days, we could surely appreciate use of your resource function. More can be found here, as well as signing up: [MS COMMUNICATORS PAGE](#)

73 - Chadwick KD5UMO

This is an excellent opportunity to give back to the community in North Texas.

73,

Andy Barnes, W5KZJ



Next General Meeting

Thursday, April 11 @ 7:30 PM

North Pointe Church of Christ

7030 S State Hwy 78,

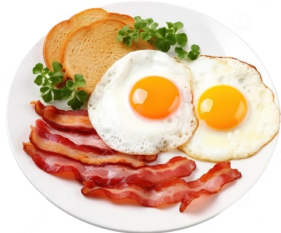
Sachse, TX 75048

Topic: QSL History of Raymond W5RBO (Silent Key)
Dave Piekarski K5EEN



QSO Breakfast

Meet us each Saturday at 7:30am at **Ballard Street Cafe**, 112 N. Ballard in downtown **Wylie**. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30am.



Next Board Meeting:

April 25, 2024 via
Google Meet at [this link](#).



**ANY MEMBER IS
WELCOME TO JOIN US!!**

FREE ON-LINE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATING CLASS

A free, weekly, 3-hour Amateur Radio Operating Class on Zoom will begin on Thursday April 4 and run through June 20 at 6:30 PM Eastern time. The presenters will be various experienced folks in the various subjects.

A detailed syllabus will be published before the classes begin. Attend them all, or any that **you like, but you must register for the classes. To receive registration information, contact Rol Anders, K3RA, at roland.anders@comcast.net.**

Subjects will include:

- All About Operating--A general Introduction
- Amateur Radio Organizations--Local to International
- Ham Radio Awards
- DXing-History and Tips from the Experts
- QSLing-How to get that needed card for DXCC or WAS
- VHF/UHF Weak Signal Work and "Roving"
- Image Operating--Slow Scan and Fast Scan TV
- Remote Station control over internet
- Learning CW in the no-code era
- Digital Modes--From RTTY to FT8 and beyond
- Contesting--How to get started, tips for the beginner and intermediated contester
- Logging Software--What's available, how to use
- Propagation--A general intro to HF Propagation
- Amateur Satellites--How to get started
- Portable (backpacking) operation--Tips from an expert
- Setting Up a Modern (or not so modern) HF Station
- Lightning Protection and Grounding
- Traffic Handling
- Public Service, Emergency Communications

Thanks,
Rol, K3RA



Find us on
Facebook!

Did you know you can keep up with events and conversations between newsletters by joining the Sachse Amateur Radio Association on Facebook? Click the Facebook link above.

SARA Weekly Information Net

**This net is held every
Monday @ 7:00 PM**

**W5SRA Repeater:
440.350MHz
+5.0MHz
PL Tone 110.9**

**Sunday Public Service Net
W5SRA Repeater
8:00 PM**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Monday - "SARA Weekly Information Net" 7:00pm W5SRA Repeater

440.350 MHz,
Offset +5.00 Mhz,
PL tone: 110.9

Other Events

**Garland Amateur Radio Club to hold
training classes in 2024
FCC license preparation classes:**

General: 03/26-04/30/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
For information contact John KF5FWK at email:
education@k5qhd.org

Future Meeting Topics

- Apr 11th** - "QSL History of W5RBO Raymond (Silent Key)— Extensive QSO Card Collection" Dave Piekarski K5EEN
- May 9th** - "Field Day 2024 Preparation" Mike Crow W5MKC—Vice President
- June 13th** - "Field Day 2024 Final Coordination" Mike Crow W5MKC—Vice President



Yet Another Use for Amateur Radio

**To all the people who always ask:
"What are you going to do
with radio?"**

Overheard while eavesdropping on one of the local repeaters. I heard Guy 1 & Guy 2 chatting. Started out normal:

Guy – 1: This is ABC123 on the repeater.
Guy – 2: Hello this is XYZ890.
Guy – 1: Hey man, I don't really have time to talk but would you mind calling my Phone? I seem to have misplaced it.



Thanks Reddit by u/Over_Ad_4550!

Money Issues

When did "problems" become "issues"? Anyway.....

I went to the grocery store yesterday. A beef brisket was \$72. A box of Little Debbie's - essential nutrition for every raconteur - is now \$2.68. A few years ago, they were \$1.

A lot of hams are old, and many are living on Social Security.

Not every radio operator is made out of money.

Me, I didn't get into radio until I was 65 years old. Before that, I ran the roads as a traveling technical salesperson. Every morning I'd wake up in another motel, and at 6 am I was ironing a shirt.

The money went to put two kids through college. Radios were not on the grocery list.

Getting a tech license and a handheld is manageable for most people. Taking that next step - to get into the HF business - can be financially daunting. Well-heeled hams show off cluttered shacks with 50 years of expensive ham equipment on QRZ. There are the antenna towers, and the discussions about the Sherwood rating of the newest, \$4000 radios. And that's great - if you have money, there are probably worse ways to spend it than on a ham radio hobby.

Now What?

But, for hams of average or lesser means... are we locked out?

By no means. But some compromises have to be made.

I remember getting my first new HF radio in December of 2018. It was the cheapest new HF rig you could buy - (an Alinco, 100 watts). And I was thinking, "How can I make this 100 watt radio do all that HF is capable of? How can I get QSL cards from the other side of the world?"

Old Tricks

It has always been the case, and it will always be the case - that lower antenna system losses means more power delivered to the antenna. It has always been the case that total noise power is the noise density multiplied by the receive bandwidth. And, it has always been the case that low data transmission rates are more noise resistant.

HF radio, especially on 40 meters and longer, is incredibly noisy. HF operators hear lightning crashes 1000 miles away. We hear noise coming from the cosmos. In the HF game, not a matter of the sheer strength of an incoming signal. It's a matter of how far above the noise that signal is.

So, I sat down and stared at my feet while I pondered these eternal truths. I wanted my new 100 watt radio to take me to exotic places. It was capable, but I had to engineer the whole communications system carefully in order to make it work.

When I stood up, I said, "This problem was solved a long time ago, back at the beginning of radio. I'm going to become a CW operator."

Meeting the Requirements

A common conversion rate between Morse code "words per minute (WPM)" and the equivalent baud rate is 0.83. In other words, a fairly skilled CW op running 20 WPM is sending at a baud rate of about 16. That is certainly a low data rate.

A CW signal is narrow bandwidth. With key shaping, a CW signal might have a 200 Hz bandwidth. The typical CW receiver with a 500 Hz filter therefore cuts the noise by about a factor of 5 over an SSB (voice) signal that is received with a 2400 Hz SSB filter.

So, CW checks all the boxes for high performance: narrow bandwidth, and low data rate.

But I have to learn Morse code (and that is hard, and impossible, and...)

Yeah, but you don't have to learn it all at once. Amateur radio is not your living. It's a hobby. You are not being paid for proficiency. Slow CW senders are still CW senders. Getting to 20 WPM took me 2 years. I collected a lot of CW QSL cards along the way. A few hams swore at me, but that's between them and the FCC....

"Life is a School"

Baloney. Life is not a school. In the real world, you can get handsomely rewarded by taking intelligent risks. Suppose you try for two years to learn Morse code, and at the end, you fail. So what? It's not like school, you are not going to get an "F", and it isn't going on your "permanent record". In fact, you can just hook your laptop up to your radio, and run FT8. That's another low data rate, noise-resistant mode. It's just not conversational. Most hams don't seem to care that it isn't conversational.

QRP

If you can run low data rates and narrow bandwidth by using Morse code and CW, you don't absolutely have to have 100 watts. In fact, there is a whole subset of the amateur radio hobby that consists of running 5 watts or less of power. It's called "QRP", and if the power is less than 1 watt, it's called "QRPP".

This is where the cost savings come in. A new, multiband QRP HF radio with both SSB and CW capability can be had for \$130. CW - only transceiver kits can be had for as little as \$6 (although they don't work very well).

Cheaper Antennas

Antennas don't have to be \$10,000 towers. Hams have used wire antennas for over 100 years. Did you know that 500,000 watt XERF, the "border blaster" on 1570 AM aired Wolfman Jack back in the early 1960s - did you know that they ran a wire antenna? Did you know that the Titanic had a wire antenna? Did you know that WWV today runs center fed HF towers with elevated wire radials? Wires work. And they are cheap.

Estate Sales

My first HF radio in 2017 was a tube transceiver that was made in 1969. I got it for nearly nothing at an estate sale. It was broken, but the problem turned out to be simple - a shorted wire. The short was fixed by squirting silicone RTV into a cable bundle that ran from the speaker/power supply into the radio. That brought a 140 watt, 80 - 10 meter transceiver to life.

I was rather surprised that the radio was in the estate sale. I didn't realize that the dear departed was an amateur operator. After I opened up the radio, I discovered that he wasn't an amateur radio operator. He had done a crystal substitution. He was a 140 watt (illegal) CB operator.

A pair of dikes fixed that problem. I still have the 11 meter crystal around here somewhere. The radio, I traded off with the proper crystals in it.

FT8 Again

I recently built a 4 band FT8 transceiver from a kit for \$70. It has an excellent receiver and a 5 watt transmitter. It get all over North America and occasionally to Europe and Japan.

POTA

In the parks, I run CW-only, QRP kit radios - and I "talk" all over the country. If you run cheap, kit-built radios, you can also take them to club events - like Field Day, Winter Field Day, and POTA outings.

Moral of the Story

The moral of the story is, there are ways to work around the money issue in amateur radio. Instead of throwing money at the antenna problem, and the noise problem... get smart instead. Learn to make the best of whatever equipment you can afford. If it turns out that what you can afford is a QRP HF transceiver and a wire antenna, you will find yourself accidentally prepared for Field Day and POTA outings - which are a lot of fun.

If you succeed at learning Morse code - even if it takes a couple of years - your club will likely call on you to make demonstrations of this ancient skill on Field Day. New hams and prospective hams will gawk at you while you carry on something that to them, looks impossible.

And when you get home, you will get the same results with \$200 worth of equipment that an SSB operator gets with \$3000 worth of equipment.

Or...

Or, you can get on one of those DXpeditions to some tropical island. DXpeditions want CW operators. Feel the sand between your toes. Get out of some frozen hell in the winter, and find yourself in the Caribbean or in the South Pacific.

As for me, my sights are a little lower.

Instead of the DXpedition, I'd rather throw a pull-up antenna mast and my portable HF "go box" into the trunk of the car, and head out to a local park. The "go box" is a 6 can Igloo cooler, which holds all of my simple, inexpensive CW gear. In the winter, I sweeten the deal with a cup of pumpkin spice coffee and a donut from the local convenience store. \$3.50. That, and a little sunshine - is more than I deserve.

- Jim Eatman KG5WAW

SARA Club Officers for 2023-2024

Current officers for the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, per the election held at the September 2023 General Meeting.

President	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Vice President	Mike Crow W5MJC
Secretary	Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
Treasurer	Linda Smyder K5LCS
Public Information Officer	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
Director at Large	John Smyder W5JWS
Newsletter Editor	Ev Wingo KI5LEX

JOIN THE ARRL

As an ARRL Affiliated Club, SARA receives a commission for every **new** ARRL membership and **renewal** we submit to ARRL Headquarters and get to retain a portion of the dues for each regular membership submitted.

Clubs retain **\$15 for each new membership** OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

Clubs retain **\$5 for each renewal**. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires.

You can download the ARRL Affiliated Club Membership form [here](#).

Once downloaded, complete the form and get it to the club Treasurer along with a check made out to 'Sachse Amateur Radio Association' and we will submit your ARRL membership application/renewal to ARRL Headquarters. (NOTE: ARRL Headquarters is working on getting an on-line version working so that you can go directly to them and the ARRL will send the club a check for any new or renewed memberships.)

The April 2024 Solar Eclipse

On April 8, 2024, a celestial spectacle will grace the skies of North America - a total solar eclipse⁴. This astronomical event occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, completely obscuring the Sun's face⁶. The sky will darken, mimicking the conditions of dawn or dusk⁶.

The eclipse's path of totality, where observers can witness the full eclipse, is a narrow track stretching from Texas to Maine⁴. Outside this path, a partial eclipse will be visible throughout all 48 contiguous U.S. states⁴. The eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean, with the first location in continental North America to experience totality being Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT⁴.

The eclipse will then continue its journey, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine⁴. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse⁴. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT⁴.

For the best viewing experience, travelers are advised to find an area with clear weather within the 115-mile-wide path of totality². Locations such as Oklahoma¹, Michigan³, and others offer prime viewing spots.

This total solar eclipse presents a unique opportunity for skywatchers and astronomers alike to witness and study a rare celestial event. As we count down the days to this awe-inspiring spectacle, remember to prepare adequately and ensure you have the proper equipment to safely view the eclipse⁵.

Source:

- (1) [2024 Total Eclipse: Where & When - NASA Science](#).
- (2) [2024 Total Solar Eclipse - Science@NASA](#).
- (3) [Best place to see the April 2024 solar eclipse?](#)
- (4) [2024 total solar eclipse](#).
- (5) [Solar eclipse 2024](#).
- (6) [Eclipse Path of Total Solar Eclipse](#).



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Working on a project that you think the club members would be interested in? Read a good HAM related article somewhere? Send articles to SARA Newsletter Editor:

newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SARA vice-president Mike Crow, W5MJC heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help or has ideas may contact Mike at:

vicepresident@sachseradio.org

SARA BRANDED GEAR

We now have two suppliers for SARA gear. Both of these companies have our logo on file.



HamThreads will do hats, shirts, jackets and vests. They can do single items. HamThreads is in Saginaw.

<https://www.hamthreads.com>

SARA NAME BADGES

If you need a SARA name badge please go to:

<https://namebadge.com/sachse>



CALL
Your Name
Sachse, Texas



Ham Radio Says Goodbye to a Legend

Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key

The man who defined the sound of live rock 'n' roll music and brought audio engineering principals into mainstream amateur radio use, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, has passed away at the age of 83.

He was an ARRL Life Member and in the ARRL Maxim Society. A Facebook post from Heil Ham Radio paid tribute to their founder: "Bob fought a valiant, year-long battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family."

Heil founded Heil Sound in 1966, through which he created the template for modern concert sound systems for musicians like the Grateful Dead, The Who, Joe Walsh, and Peter Dinklage.

The talk box used on iconic live record *Frampton Comes Alive!* was Heil's design. His audio engineering products have been featured in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and he was honored in 2007 with the Parnelli Audio Innovator Award for his impact on the live sound industry. "My life has been about achieving great sound, whether on the concert stage or in the amateur radio world," Bob Heil [recounted in 2022](#). "I've watched Heil Sound go from a regional sound company to a world-class microphone manufacturer. This company has been my passion," he said.

Parallel to his commercial and artistic success in live music, was his passion for amateur radio. He was active in ham radio from a young age, and he merged his expertise in audio engineering with his love for radio. Heil Ham Radio was founded to produce microphones, headsets, and other gear for radio amateurs with an emphasis on high-quality audio.

Heil was known as a mentor who enjoyed helping others find success in ham radio.

Recently, his grandson Charlie Hartley, KF0OOP, became a licensed ham to surprise Heil for his birthday. [The pair attended the ARRL Midwest Convention/Winterfest](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 27, 2024.

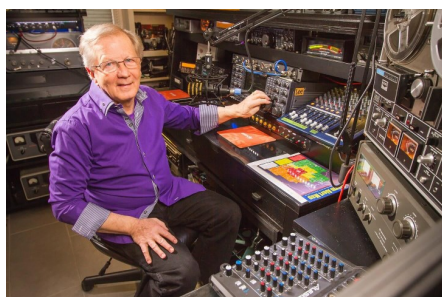
Heil was a generous donor to amateur radio organizations, including ARRL. Recently, [he donated a host of new audio gear](#) to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

His generosity and kind nature will be missed by many, including ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "Bob was a titan in many areas. He was generous with his time, offered keen insights, and had the heart of a philanthropist in the ARRL Maxim Society," Beal said. "He was a gentleman to his core, making friends easily and everywhere he went, from rock stars to captains of industry. I consider it a real privilege to have become a friend to him, too, all because of amateur radio."

Heil was known for his passion for AM operations. He served for many years as an on-camera host of the Ham Nation podcast. Tributes to Heil have been flooding social media, including from his co-hosts.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil's passing is a significant loss. "Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow ham. He's long been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. Our thoughts are with his loved ones."

An obituary for Heil may be viewed [at this link](#).



Lite Tech Corner—Episode 1a

Current, Voltage, and Resistance

This month, let's take a look at some basic electronics foundations. We'll start with defining some of the terms we use.

First, where do we get electricity to power so many of the things we use today? There are numerous sources including generators (especially those huge monsters that the power companies use to power our homes and businesses), batteries of numerous types, and solar power. The big difference between generated electricity and battery- or solar-produced electricity is AC versus DC. The generator natively produces AC or alternating current while the batteries and solar cells produce DC or direct current.

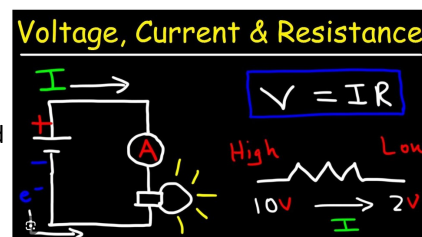
So – what's current? What's voltage? I like to compare electricity to water. The cities' storage tank is the source of the water for our discussion. The rate at which the water flows within the pipes illustrates current flow. Current flows in a wire in a similar manner to water flowing in a pipe. Hence, we measure the water flow in gallons per hour while we measure current flow in a unit called amperes. Current flow in amperes may be viewed as a density measurement of the electrons flowing down a wire. What makes the current (or water) flow? For water, we measure its pressure in pounds per square inch; for electricity, we measure the electrical pressure in volts. From that we can calculate the amount of work or power being delivered by our current flow in a wire. One volt of pressure with one ampere of current yields one watt of work or power.

Second, to make use of current and voltage to do work (light a lamp, heat an oven, provide air conditioning, operate our radio, etc.), resistance comes into the picture. Resistance to the flow of electrical current can be compared to a restriction in a water pipe. The restriction slows or impedes the flow of the water. Likewise, if we place a resistance in the wire (circuit) for our current and voltage to react to, current flow is reduced and, generally, heat is produced. An old-fashioned light bulb illustrates this. The light bulb has a fixed amount of resistance (via its filament) to the flow of current through it. If there is enough resistance along with enough electron density (current) and electron pressure (voltage), the filament becomes hot enough to give off light!

We measure resistance in ohms. There is a fixed relationship among current, voltage, and resistance. This brings us to ohm's law which we'll take up in a subsequent article. But for now – back to AC versus DC. AC (alternating current) flows back and forth in its conductor at some rate called frequency. DC flows only in one direction. AC is generally easier to send through power lines and transformers, etc. DC provides a stable source to power things like radios which require it.

Next time, we'll expand the discussion of how voltage, current, and resistance interact and how that interaction can be predicted with a tiny bit of simple math. Stay tuned!!!

Bob DeVance, K5CRX



My HF Audio is too noisy, you say.

Is there any way to fix that?

Well, sorta. There is [a web site at this link](#) that removes noise from SSB and CW audio. Some documentation from the web site follows.

Introduction

The RM Noise project uses AI with the goal of removing noise from SSB voice or CW radio signals. The system has been trained using noise recordings which are often unique to each setup and location. The client program sends the radio's noisy output to the AI servers, the servers remove the noise and return the audio back to the client for listening.

System Requirements

Hardware: A Windows 10 or 11 computer with internet access and the computer's audio line in (or something equivalent) connected to a radio.

Software: Windows 10 and 11 have been tested. Windows 7 is no longer supported.

Further documentation, along with links to the necessary download files are on the web site.

Audio is uploaded to a RM noise server. The server software scrubs the audio file, and creates a new one with "cleaner" audio, which can be downloaded. Processing time varies with file length, server load, and such. Currently there are 3 servers available; two in Texas and one in Switzerland.

Check it out!

Thanks to Brandon Thomas KJ5SX

Welcome to two new Hams

Two people tested with the W5SRA Laurel VE team on March 16, 2024:

Larry Self, and
Bob Welsh II.

Both passed the Technician test and are now:

Larry Self - KJ5FHL, and
Bob Welsh II - KJ5FIW

In accordance with the recent SARA By-laws changes, both are also new members of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association. Please welcome each of them to the club.

Get a Scout on the Air—FREE!

The Garland Amateur Radio Club was awarded by the ARRL the funds to purchase 16 Yaesu FT-4XR Transceivers for our program to get Scouts on the radio.

We still have eight (8) of these transceivers for scouts. Your club can give a new scout one of these radios. The scout should have received his Technician License in 2023 or 2024.

Send us the scout's name and call sign and we will give you a radio for your club to present to the scout. (Be sure to tell us your name and where we can contact you.)

These are on a first-come first-serve basis based upon email date and time. Again we only have eight (8) radios.

John Abbott, KF5FWK, Garland Amateur Radio Club, Education Director

Halifax Resolves Special Event

By Barry Evans (N4WUFU)

Amateur radio operators from surrounding areas will assemble at Halifax, North Carolina on April 11-13, 2024, to activate special event station N4C. They will operate several Ham stations, using voice, CW (morse code), and digital modes to communicate with as many other hams, around the world, as possible. This activity is to commemorate the signing of The Halifax Resolves, which occurred on April 12, 1776.

The Halifax Resolves was the first written instrument in existence leading to US independence from England. It was approved unanimously at the Fourth Provincial Congress gathered at Halifax, NC. It authorized the NC delegates, being sent to the Continental Congress to vote for and encourage other colonies' delegates to support independence from England. This led to the US's Declaration of Independence being adopted and signed on July 4, 1776.

Hams around the world that make contact with this special event station can request a QSL card confirming the contact by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

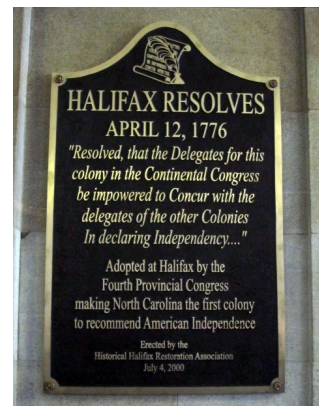
Barry Evans, N4WUFU

P. O. Box 1533

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

A certificate suitable for framing is also available for a donation of \$5.00 to offset its cost. If possible, please include an address label if requesting the certificate.

[Source: N4WUFU]





Sachse Amateur Radio Association

General Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

Start time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: North Pointe Church

Facilitator: President Andy Barnes W5KZJ

Everyone stood and joined in to say The Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and guests introduced themselves with names and call sign.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
Dave Gross W6JDG
Doug Priebe AG5HB
Ev Wingo KI5LEX

Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
Rusty Cain KG5WFM
Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI
Bob Cannon
Linda Smyder K5LCS

John Smyder W5JWS
Chris VanAllen K5CVA
Mike Crow W5MJC
Mike Haliburton KJ5BLP
Guillermo Sanchez KI5SJJ

Presentation:

Members of the Sasche Amateur Radio Association wish to express their gratitude to Rusty Cain KG5WFM for his presentation on the "CW Practice Oscillator". Eight practice boards were donated to SARA.

Members of the Sasche Amateur Radio Association wish to express their gratitude to Dave Gross W6JDG for his presentation on "WinLink Basics". WinLink software can be obtained free at www.winlink.org.

Business Meeting:

President's Report – Andy Barnes W5KZJ

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday March 28th 7 p.m. via Google Meet. There is a link in SARA Skywaves, all are welcome. The next General Meeting will be on Thursday April 11th at 7:30 p.m. at North Point Church.

Currently the member count for the membership year (as of 03/01/2024) is 45 members (44 licensed and 2 honorary). Thirty-six members are currently ARRL members (80%).

Upcoming General Meeting Subject Plans:

- ***April – Dave Piekarski K5EEN – QSL History of Raymond W5RBO (Silent Key)***
- ***May – Mike Crow W5MJC – Field Day Prep***
- ***June – Mike Crow W5MJC – Field Day Prep***

Future General Meeting Topics:

Ideas for upcoming meetings
Please help with subject matter



Sachse Amateur Radio Association

General Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

Vice President's Report – Mike Crow W5MJC

Activities –

Field Day 2024.

Troop 442 has been invited to Field Day but have not heard from them.

Dave Gross will reserve Salmon Park for the club for Field Day.

Parks on the Air Activation on April 6th, Spring Creek Forest Preserve, 1770 Holford Road, 9am to Noon.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes – Kathy Wingo K15LEY

The minutes for February 2024 were in the newsletter and on the website.

MOTION: Kathy Wingo K15LEY made a Motion to approve the February minutes.
Ev Wingo K15LEX seconded the Motion.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Linda Smyder W5LCS

The February 2024 Treasurer Report was presented to the members.

(A copy of the Treasurer Report can be requested from Linda Smyder K5LCS treasurer@sachceradio.org)

MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made a Motion to approve the February Treasurer Report.
Tony Fiorda WB8KZI seconded the Motion.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

A 2024 Proposed Budget was presented for consideration.

Chamber of Commerce Dues	\$ 125.00
Equipment Insurance (ARRL)	\$ 131.64
Liability Insurance (ARRL)	\$ 200.00
PO Box (USPS)	\$ 156.00
Fuel for Field Day	\$ 45.00
SARA Web URL (Namecheap.com)	\$ 14.16
Christmas Door Prizes	\$ 300.00
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 200.00
	=====
Total	\$ 1,171.80

MOTION: Dave Gross W6JDG made a Motion to approve the 2024 Budget.
Kathy Wingo K15LEY seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.



Sachse Amateur Radio Association

General Meeting Minutes

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Public Information Officer's Report - Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

- Saturday QSO Breakfast @ Ballard Street Café @ 7:30 a.m.
- SARA's Weekly Information Net, Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Laurel VE Session March 16th @ North Pointe Church, 9 – 11 a.m.
- Garland Amateur Radio Club to hold classes in 2024.
 - General 3/26/24 to 4/30/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
 - For more information contact John KF5FWK @ education@K5qhd.org

SARA Information Net

The SARA Information Net is held on Monday, at 7:00 p.m. Weekly Information Net Control:

March 18 th	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
March 25 th	Ev Wingo KI5LEX
April 1 st	Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
April 8 th	Andy Barnes W5KZJ
April 15 th	Mike Crow W5JWS
April 22 nd	Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
April 29 th	Mike Crow W5JWS
May 6 th	Andy Barnes W5KZJ

Newsletter Editor's Report - Ev Wingo KI5LEX

The March newsletter has been posted to the website and emailed to membership (distribution 167).

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 25th of each month. The goal is to have the newsletter out on the 1st of each month.

Article Ideas:

- Projects that you are working on or have completed,
- Events and activities related to amateur radio,
- Articles you have read in other publications,

Remember, our distribution is beyond our membership and our content could encourage other people to come get involved!!

Send pictures and articles to newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

Tabled MOTION:

At the January meeting Johnnie Young KG5CQO stated that she did not agree with placing the club's finances in the minutes, newsletter, and website for anyone outside of the club to see. There was a discussion after which the following MOTION was made:

MOTION: Johnnie Young KG5CQO made a motion not to include the financial information in the minutes or newsletters. Motion died due to the lack of a second.



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MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made a motion to table the financial information and bring it back next month for discussion.
Jim Szot N5JS seconded the motion.
Motion carried with Ev Wingo KI5LEX being opposed.

MOTION: Kathy Wingo KI5LEY made a Motion to remove from the table.
Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Johnnie Young KG5CQO was not in attendance to make an amendment to her motion. After the discussion by the members a motion was made.

Members discussed including financials in the minutes and publish on the website but not publish the information in the newsletter. It was mentioned that the minutes published in the newsletter would not be true and correct minutes if the financials were removed prior to publication. It was decided that the newsletter would add the statement "A copy of the Treasurer Report can be requested from Linda Smyder K5LCS" in place of the financial information.

MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made the motion to include the finance report in the minutes and not publish that information in the newsletter.
Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the motion.
No further discussion.
Motion carried with Andy Barnes W5KZJ, Kathy Wingo KI5LEY and Ev Wingo KI5LEX objecting.

New Business:

Changes to By-Laws

Article III Officers

- A through F add: **Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors** to be added to each.

MOTION: Dave Gross W6JDG made the motion to add "Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors" to A through F of Article III Officers.
Rusty Cain KG5WFM seconded the motion.
Further Discussion: Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI asked if this change was redundant. President Andy Barnes W5KZJ explained that it was made to clear any confusion because President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer were called out as the Business Committee, and this gives all members of the Executive Board a vote concerning the business of the club.
Motion carried unanimously.

Article II Membership

- ~~All new licensees~~ **All first time licensees that test** with Laurel be granted membership for the remainder of the current ~~fiscal~~ **membership** year at no charge.

MOTION: Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI made the motion to add "All first-time licensees that test with Laurel be granted membership for the remainder of the current membership year at no charge" to Article II Membership.
John Smyder W5JWS seconded the motion.
No further discussion.
Motion carried unanimously.



Sachse Amateur Radio Association

General Meeting Minutes

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Article VI Meeting Procedures

- 6.01 Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held each month at such a place, as officers shall order. The President may call special meetings. ~~Written notices shall be sent twenty-five days before special meetings.~~ **Written notice shall be sent a minimum of 72 hours before the special meeting concerning the business to be transacted.** Only such business as designated shall be transacted at special meetings.

The full verbiage of the proposed by law changes was on page 6 of the March newsletter for the members to consider.

Andy Barnes W5KZJ explained that this change would allow the club to move on any important business in a timelier manner.

MOTION: Dave Gross W6JDG made a Motion to approve the bylaw changes as presented.

Jeff Feldman KI5DDX seconded the Motion.

Discussion, none.

Motion carried unanimously.

POTA Activity:

The McKinney Amateur Radio Club has invited SARA to join them in a Parks on the Air activation at Bonham State Park, April 20th 9am to 9pm. Lunch will be provided.

Equipment Sharing:

At our last meeting, Joe Ellis KN5Y made a proposal to create a spreadsheet of members test equipment that they would be willing to share with other members of the club. The board has come up with a spreadsheet for review by the members. However, there are some reservations concerning liability.

Mike Crow W5MJC suggested that this be added to the Swap Shop.

Other Business:

No other business.

Adjournment:

MOTION: John Smyder W5JWS made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted by
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

SARA Skywaves

Is published each month for the purpose of informing Sachse Amateur Radio Association members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio operators. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to **SARA Skywaves** and to the original source.

SARA is a Texas Non-Profit 501(c) 3 corporation based in Sachse, TX.

SARA Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 1764
Wylie, TX 75048-1764



Sachse Amateur Radio Association

Board Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2024

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Facilitator: Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President

The invocation was offered by Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President.

President Andy Barnes W5KZJ thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes – W5KZJ

Mike Crow – W5MJC

Ev Wingo – K15LEX

Kathy Wingo – K15LEY

Jeff Feldman – K15DDX

1. Field Day Preparation

Andy Barnes W5KZJ is on the agenda with the Sachse Parks and Recreation Board Meeting April 11th. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. but not sure where we will be listed on the agenda at this time. This is the same night as the club meeting. The agenda will be ready and Mike Crow W5MJC will begin the meeting until Andy Barnes W5KZJ arrives.

Operation Class is being suggested at 3A. Commercial power may be available at the site. Emergency power will need a generator rather than battery.

There will be a setup of 1-3 stations rather than a free for all.

ACTION: Discuss at the club meeting in April to obtain input from members and then come back to the Board for discussion. May members will vote on the final format for Field Day.

2. Software for publishing the Sky Waves newsletter.

Status – Canva has been downloaded and the club has obtained one premium access for the software. The license has to be tied to an email, newslettereditor@sachseradio.org was used allowing for easy transition for the next newsletter editor. It will take some time to create a newsletter like the current format. An email will be sent to newsletter readers to see how they view the newsletter, PDF or the website.

3. Sachse's Fall Fest.

This will be an excellent opportunity for SARA to get our name in front of the public. We will find out when the event will be held this year and determine if the club receives a free table as a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

4. Other Business

An email has been received from a past member offering an Yaesu HD Fx 560 SSB transceiver that he is willing to give to the Association or a person. It is in good condition but has not been used for about four years. If anyone is interested, please contact me at sacksea77@gmail.com

ACTION: Jeff Feldman K15DDX will include this information in his weekly blast to the members.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Jeff Feldman K15DDX made the motion to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

Kathy Wingo K15LEY

Weekly Information Net Control Station Script

This net control script is a **SUGGESTED** script for the NCS to use to conduct the weekly net. NCS should feel free to modify this script as needed to encourage maximum participation by all net participants.

(NCS Reads the text in black. Instructions to NCS are in (red).)

(A list of potential questions to ask the net attendees can be found [here](#).)

(Preamble)

Good evening all Radio Amateurs and welcome. This is (Your Call), my name is (Your Name), and I will be your Net Control Station for this session of the Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. This net meets every Monday night at 7:00 PM local time, on the W5SRA repeater, frequency 440.350 MHz, with an offset of +5.00 MHz, and using a PL tone of 110.9, for the purpose of discussing topics of interest to SARA members and others. (pause) This is a Directed Net. Please do not transmit unless directed to do so by Net Control. If the repeater should go down, everyone should switch to the Sachse emergency simplex frequency 146400 MHz.

Also, if at any time you have an emergency that is an imminent threat to life or property, break in by saying "Priority", "Emergency", or "Break Break" followed by your call sign, and the net will recognize your station and will stand by.

(Pause)

(A reminder—Net Control Should ID about every 10 minutes.)

(Check-Ins)

As we start check-ins this evening, we will break them down into two categories.

1. Portable, mobile and short time check-ins.
2. General Check-ins

We will initially stand-by for portable, mobile and short time check-ins. Please, come now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name, followed by your callsign alphanumerically.

(Recognize short time, portable and mobile check-ins individually.)

(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have.)

(Ask for any additional check-ins.)

We will now standby for general check-ins. Please, check in now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name, followed by your callsign alphanumerically.

(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have. Then ask for more check-ins – this might need to be done 2 or 3 or more times – until there are no more check-ins.)

(Make sure you give your own call-sign regularly and allow others to ID appropriately as well.)

(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

(Club Announcements)

We will start off with club announcements from club officers. Any club officer on the net with an announcement, please come now with your call sign.

(Always make certain the weekly QSO eyeball breakfast is announced)

SARA meets for breakfast every Saturday morning at 7:30AM at Ballard Street Cafe, 112 N. Ballard St. in downtown Wylie. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30AM.

(General Announcements)

At this time, we will take stations with announcements of interest to the amateur radio community in general.

(When Ham Operators check-in initially, they may tell you if they have an announcement for later in the Net. Make note of those who have announcements and recognize them first.)

(TECH CORNER and SWAP NET)

Is there anyone who would like to ask a technical question, or share information on something they would like to buy or sell? Remember no haggling over price on the air. Please come now with your call sign.

(Late Check-Ins)

Before we end this Net, I would like to take late check-ins. If there are any late check-ins, please give your call sign and name slowly and clearly.

(Write down and read back each call sign).

(Wrap-Up)

This is (your name and call). We wish to thank all who participated in the net this evening. This net will meet again next Monday night at 7:00PM local time on the W5SRA Repeater. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM at North Point Church of Christ, 7030 Hwy 78, Sachse, TX. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday at 7:00PM on Google Meet. A link for this meeting is in [the club calendar](#).

(Close the net)

This concludes the Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. If you would like more information about the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, please visit our web site at www.sachseradio.org. This is (name and call sign) and we now return the W5SRA repeater to its normal use. Hope to hear from you next week.